

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/744,043

Examiner

Paul Gurzo

Applicant(s)

DAVIS ET AL.

Art Unit

2881

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/21/03.
 2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.
 3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
 4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1~~5~~ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2~~6~~ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3~~7~~ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____
- 4~~8~~ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5~~9~~ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6~~0~~ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____
- 7~~1~~ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8~~2~~ ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9~~3~~ ☐ Other

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-27 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: As independent claims were read in light of the specification, the prior art of record fails to disclose or render obvious a time of flight mass spectrometer for measuring the m/z of ionized particles, the spectrometer comprising an ion source for generation of said ionized particles, acceleration means for acceleration of said ionized particles so as to form an ion beam, a means for sampling from the ion beam such that a share of the beam is detected on each of two detectors such that the time of flights for any or all ions of a given m/z to each of the two detectors is used for the purpose of improving the accuracy of measurement of the m/z values of ions, wherein one of the two detectors is positioned so as to intercept at least a first portion of the ionized particles and to permit a second portion of the ionized particles to continue past the detectors, and a data processor adapted for calculating differences or average differences in arrival times of corresponding particles at each of said two detectors to enable said m/z characteristics to be determined.

The closest prior art of record, Reed et al. (5,619,034), Park (6,107,625), and Cotter et al. (5,202,563), teach a time of flight mass spectrometer for measuring the m/z of ionized particles, the spectrometer comprising an ion source for generation of said ionized particles, acceleration means for acceleration of said ionized particles so as to form an ion beam, a means for sampling from the ion beam such that a share of the beam is detected on each of two detectors such that the time of flights for any or all ions of a given m/z to each of the two detectors is used for the

Art Unit: 2881

purpose of improving the accuracy of measurement of the m/z values of ions, wherein one of the two detectors is positioned so as to intercept at least a first portion of the ionized particles and to permit a second portion of the ionized particles to continue past the detectors. They teach a processor to control the detectors, but this processor does not calculate differences or average differences in arrival times of corresponding particles to enable said m/z characteristics to be determined.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Gurzo whose telephone number is (703) 306-0532. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Thurs. 7:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Lee can be reached on (703) 308-4116. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

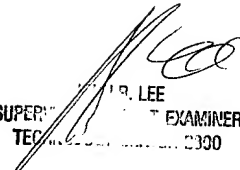
Application/Control Number: 09/744,043

Page 4

Art Unit: 2881

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December 12, 2003


SUPERVISOR R. LEE
TECHNICAL EXAMINER
DEC 12 2003